



Section 4: Reply to the Office re §112 objections

Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of §112 objections raised in the Office Action, based on concerns in the wording of claims 2, 4, 6, and 7. Applicant notes that these 5 claims were all amended in accordance with Examiner's observations. In particular, claims 2 and 6 were amended in order not to appear as method claims.



Section 5: Reply to the Office re §103 objections

Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of §103 objections raised in the Office Action, based on the following considerations. Examiner suggests that all claims, including 5 independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 in the instant application are rendered obvious by US patent no. 6,224,073, issued to applicant Au on May 1, 2001.

It will be noted that the Au invention consists of an assembly composed of 3 pieces, these comprising 2 mosquito netting side panels with a clear plastic connecting frontal section. The 10 frontal section may be permanently attached to the side panels, or removably attached thereto.

In either case, the Au invention is a 3-piece assembly designed for total enclosure of the baby stroller. It must be attached at a large plurality of locations, with the suggested number of 6 connection points displayed in the Figures (3 on each side panel). If the frontal section is 15 removable, there must be additional attachment points to secure the frontal section to the stroller frame and/or the side panels.

Furthermore, this cumbersome invention is required to form a full enclosure in order to achieve its stated purpose of screening the infant from the wind. Indeed, the title of the patent discloses a 20 wind screen assembly.

In contrast to this, the Applicant's present invention is a sun screen, and comprises a one piece oval of sun screen material. It is not intended as a wind screen, and certainly does not form a full 25 enclosure. Instead, the present invention is designed to sit low on the stroller, to screen against low-angle ambient light.

One particularly innovative aspect of the present invention, not taught by Au, is the pivot points. Because the current invention covers a limited area, it is pivotable such that it is not deployed in 30 circumstances where it is not needed, thus allowing the infant an enhanced forward viewing area.



From a practical aspect, the present invention is much more easily handled than the Au invention. To utilize the Au invention, as described above, the operator (presumably the mother or nanny) must attach the device at multiple points, estimated at 10-12 connections (3 for each 5 side panel to the frame, and 2-3 for the frontal section to each side). Then, to remove or disengage the invention, the operator must disconnect each connection, and store 3 sections.

In complete contrast, the current invention requires only attachment at 2 points with simple hook-and-loop attachments. Of even more convenience, the current invention is pivotable 10 upwards when its use is not desired. Thus, no disconnection is required to disable the device and allow a field of vision to the infant.

Applicant suggests that the side panels of the Au invention may appear superficially to anticipate the current invention. But close inspection reveals that these side panels are not true ovals, do not 15 have the (only) pair of attachment points, and are not pivotable. Therefore, they cannot be said to render the current invention obvious.



Remarks

Applicant appreciates the observations of Examiner during prosecution of this application.

5 Applicant notes that indeed, as Examiner speculated, dimensions were inadvertently omitted from the written description and claims. To remedy this defect, the language was changed to reflect the attachment mode and dimensions as revealed in the Figures. This avoids the issue of new matter, since the Figures are part of the original as-filed application, and are not themselves amended herein.

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In an effort to improve readability, Applicant has inserted paragraph breaks at two places within the written description as indicated in Section 2 above.

15 Every effort has been made to constructively amend each area of the claims and specification in accordance with all of the examiner's observations in the above-referenced Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests a timely Allowance in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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